

from the Abyss: Thoughts on Life and Death" and looks forward to completing other works, one on his experiences as a rabbi in New Jersey, before and after gambling was legalized in Atlantic City.

One book may be about retirement: How to plan for it and how to respond to the emotions it may evoke.

"You need to be active," he said. "Also you need to have a realization that retirement is not a lowering of your self-esteem but an opening of a new chapter in your life."

Rona Simon added, "It's a new beginning."

In their new beginning, the Simons will reduce but not eliminate all of their civic commitments. They want to spend more time with each other, their children and three grandchildren.

A few of their road trips will be to away Lady Vols basketball games.

When the Lady Vols basketball team's schedule is released, the Simons, who are perennial ticket holders, have a planning meeting.

"She tells me to block those nights out so I try not to have meetings," says Simon. "At this point, the ideal job for me would be the team's chaplain."

He laughed.

"They have done so much for Knoxville and are excellent role models," Rona Simon said. "They are role models not because they win but because they inspire young people and are committed to various causes."

A special Shabbat service, prepared by Simon, on June 25 will be followed by a special oneg Shabbat to honor Simon at the temple. On Saturday, June 26, there will be a program beginning at 7:30 p.m. that will also celebrate the 80th birthday of temple member Millie Gelber.

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 27, there will be a special dinner honoring Simon's 36 years of service to Reform Judaism and his 13 years at the temple. It will be at the Hyatt and will feature a toast and a roast of Simon by his relatives and friends.

AT A GLANCE: RABBI HOWARD SIMON

Born in Davenport, Iowa, and moved to Denver, Colo. He graduated from Colorado University in 1958.

Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in 1960; master of Hebrew Letters and rabbinic ordination both in 1963; and doctor of divinity in 1968.

Temple Beth El is Simon's fourth congregation. Also served as rabbi at Har Sinai Temple in Baltimore; Beth Israel Congregation in Atlantic City, N.J.; and K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati.

Samuel Neustadter Memorial Award for Service to the state of Israel, 1977.

Rabbinic Services Award from the Council of Jewish Federation, 1989.

Participated in study mission to Poland and to the Soviet Union.

Was scholar in residence at the Sam and Esther Rosen Institute in Knoxville; adjunct professor at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion from 1981-86; taught at Xavier College and Hiwassee College.

National affiliations: Union of American Hebrew Congregations' Committee on Judaism and Health and its Committee on Cults and Missionary Movements; National Rabbinic Cabinet of United Jewish Appeal.

Local affiliations: Board of directors for the Interfaith Health Clinic, the United Way, Leadership Knoxville; the Knox County Mental Health Association; executive committee of the Knoxville Jewish Federation.

In 1996, became a UT Chancellor's Associate, one of several Knoxville-area community leaders who advised Chancellor Bill Snyder and his staff on community issues.

Members of Knoxville Ministerial Alliance, the Knox County Steering Committee for the

Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration, the Metropolitan Drug Commission's Faith Committee and the ministerial board for East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

Chair of Leadership Knoxville Class of 2000's selection committee.

Awards include National Conference of Christians and Jews, now known as the National Conference for Community and Justice and the American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training Federation based in Israel.

GRANT OF FEDERAL CHARTER TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE GEOLOGISTS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I along with the gentleman from Nevada, JIM GIBBONS, are introducing a bill to grant a federal charter to the American Association of State Geologists. Indeed, the grant of a federal charter to this organization would have a direct correlation to the very first such charter ever granted by the Congress, in 1863 to the National Academy of Science. Both organizations are premised on serving the general public through scientific research and the advancement of knowledge.

The American Association of State Geologists was established in 1908 and today is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the science and practical application of geology and related earth sciences. Its membership is comprised to the heads of Geological Surveys in the various States, territories and commonwealths of the United States. In fact, the first State geological survey was established in 1823 in North Carolina and by the time the U.S. Geological Survey was established in 1879, 35 State geological surveys already existed.

Over the past 91 years, the AASG has served the Nation and each and every State by bringing its unique and important state perspective to the deliberations of the federal government on issues related to or involving geology or geoscience. State geological surveys have generated and made publically available much of the geological and geoscience information and services that led to the growth of our Nation, its economic development, general prosperity, environmental quality and the quality of life we enjoy today. Their mission remains equally important to our Nation's future.

Every member of Congress and their staff have, at one time or another, consulted the State geological surveys concerning issues related to geology in their districts. State geological surveys are universally relied upon for their expertise and relevant, credible, and timely maps, information and services concerning energy, mineral, water, land, biological/ecological and environmental resources, as well as information relevant to avoid or mitigate natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and the like.

There is no doubt that the AASG has earned a high reputation within the federal government for its expertise, credibility, candor and trust. It is frequently called upon by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to

bring the state perspective on geological issues to the attention and consideration of the federal government and especially Congress.

In my view, the nature, extent, magnitude, and high quality of the contributions of State geological surveys and AASG to our Nation fully merits recognition of their critical role through issuance of a federal charter. AASG is exactly the sort of organization that federal charters were intended to recognize.

Mr. Speaker, it would be completely fitting and proper for Congress to grant a federal charter to AASG and by doing so would return to the spirit of the first federal charter granted to the National Academy of Science in 1863 recognizing the importance of science to our Nation.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes;

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the McCarthy provisions and against the Dingell provisions. I agree with Mr. Alvin Bell of Garland, Texas when we said:

The congressional measures passed at the stroke of midnight, by a Congress in the grasp of the National Rifle Association and the religious right, are a sad commentary to how insulated the Capitol can become to the real needs of the American people. The very idea that the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and the loosening of gun control measures can achieve less school violence is lunacy.

I would not be surprised if this Congress would soon legislate the passing out of crucifixes in schools, under the guise of warding off vampires.

June 18, 1999: Charlton Heston 2—The American people 0.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE J.B. WHITTEMORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to recognize the remarkable life and spirit of Mr. J.B. Whittemore of Pueblo, Colorado. With this, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Whittemore who embodied and exemplified hard work, dedication, and compassion. For more than half of a century, he dedicated his energy to ensuring the happiness of thousands of Pueblo children, never letting a lack of money keep children from enjoying a ride on the carousel.

J.B. Whittemore was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1914, the same year in which the City